

LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on:
Tuesday 25.1.22 at The Stanley Room, St Mary's Millennium Centre,
West Derby Village, Meadow Lane, Liverpool L12 5EA.

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Michael Morris (Chair), David Blythe (Hon Secretary), Kathy Desmond, Dave Cadwallader, David Owens, Marlene Taylor, Maureen McDaid, Danielle Azanuwha. Cliff Barton

Apologies: Andy Chadwick, Joe Hartley, Richard Lovegrove, Mary Donohue, Avril O'Brien

Guest speaker: N/A

MM introduced himself as Chair of the committee and thanked KD for her past service, noting she was a difficult act to follow. MM provided some background information highlighting he was a retired secondary headteacher who had also served as a Governance Officer in Leicestershire and has lived in Liverpool for past 4 years.

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

DB is Chair of Trustees for St Mary's Millennium Centre, the venue for today's meeting.
MM carries out occasional work on governance for which he is paid.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been agreed by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

Summary of Actions	
Archbishop Blanch to be approached re hosting future LGF meetings. No response from FM yet.	FM
Brendan Purcell, LA Energy Manager to be approached re addressing a future LGF meeting. B Purcell to address the March LGF meeting.	DC

Feedback from Liverpool Schools Forum meeting 8.12.21. See 3.1	CB
RL to be added to the NGA subscription list. PA to act as account manager on the account.	DB
The NLG tab is to be removed from website and replaced with a National Associations tab. Actioned	DB

MM asked if committee members had access to the NGA website via their school's account. It was noted that school membership gave access to more information than the LGF's association membership provided. As the LGF subscription only covers 14 members it is inadvisable for governors to have dual membership.

2.0 LGF Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DB reported that the bank balance, as of 12.1.22, is £1884.42

No funding from Headteachers Associations has been received yet. Noted - invoices have only recently been issued by LASH. Claire Madeloso, Headteacher at Archbishop Blanch is now the LASH Treasurer.

2.2 Feedback from Events

Not applicable

2.3 Future Events

Dates for the next LGF Conference are to be considered at the March meeting. It was suggested a date in June may be a possibility. The topic for the conference is Sleep.

2.4 Website

DB reported that the website is up to date. MM thanked DB for keeping website up to date and noted that the LGF site is now the first site that appears when using a search engine online.

2.5 Twitter Account

Not applicable

2.6 Others

MM thanked DB for updating and circulating the lists of roles, responsibilities and contact information as well as the schedule of forthcoming meetings etc. Members were asked to advise DB of any alteration/corrections asap.

DB highlighted the vacancies on various committees and asked governors to consider volunteering to fill the vacancies. DA agreed to serve on the LLP Learners Who Need More Group going forward. It was noted that DB appears on a disproportionate number of committees. It was agreed that this was not healthy for the organisation. The need for volunteers was reiterated.

It was noted that MM has completed the necessary documentation to replace KD on the LLP Board. DB is to contact J Thornhill to confirm if he wishes to continue serving on LGF considering his move out of the area.

MT confirmed she wished to resign as LSF SEND representative. MMd is to look at the amount of work involved before agreeing to replace MT.

Noted LLC Priority 4 is to be added to the standard agenda.

DB informed the meeting that he had been contacted by Howard Harris who thanked LGF for the book voucher and card he received after his resignation. KD took the opportunity to thank the meeting for the cards, gifts and best wishes received since her resignation as Chair of LGF.

CB shared his belief that the profile of LGF needs to be raised, highlighting to other governors that their contribution would be welcome. It was suggested that an article regarding the work and contribution of LGF be published in the next issue of Governors News which is due out after Easter. It was noted that the restrictions of Covid and the lack of LGF conferences had had a detrimental effect on new governors joining LGF.

MM stated that his challenge was that he wanted committee members to strengthen the group, but he also wanted members of the group to be 'out there' influencing good standards of governance. MM asked how this could be achieved? He acknowledges that although people can approach NGA directly LGF has a better understanding and knowledge of what is happening in Liverpool schools. It was noted that covid restrictions had resulted face to face meetings being cancelled and some virtual meetings being less than satisfactory. The success of hybrid meetings etc. relied heavily on the availability and appropriateness of IT in the host venue. This is often difficult to guarantee.

KD suggested that alternative hybrid meetings may be a way forward. DC commented on the success of previous LGF conferences as a way of reaching out to other governors. It was agreed that if a LGF conference is to take place, as agreed at the next LGF meeting, it will only take place as an actual meeting, not a virtual meeting. DC highlighted that virtual meetings do have advantages as they allow people to attend without the time-consuming associated travel issues etc.

MM shared that his school holds a monthly 'spotlight' session via Microsoft Teams which has proved popular as members of staff/governors can access the recorded session at their leisure. This makes the work life balance easier.

DA wondered that, as LCC are currently training BAME governors who are to be placed in schools where there are vacancies, could the governors be approached to join LFG to add to the diversity of the group and address the lack of representatives from the north of the city.

It was highlighted, in future, if Catholic schools are to set up trusts this may have a detrimental effect on school improvement as the schools may only network within the trusts rather than with schools in their immediate neighbourhood. It was noted that 50% of primary schools at present are Catholic schools.

MM reiterated his desire to work on how to strengthen this group and how this group strengthens governance.

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum

Feedback from meetings held on 8.12.21 and 12.1.22. MMd provided an update on the DfE finance proposals for 2022/23.

MMd reported that funding for Early Years had been agreed and funding for English as an Additional Language had been revised following consultation. Funding for Behaviour Support was also agreed although more work is needed on SEND funding.

MMd said she believed an increase of approximately 5.6 % had been put in place for pupils.

It was highlighted that it is expected that there will be 250 places short for secondary pupils next year.

Funding has been allocated to address this issue but there is concern that schools may accept additional pupils because of the attached funding they will generate but additional numbers may be at the detriment of existing pupils. DC confirmed that LLC Admissions Dept' have approached LASH for comments regarding this issue.

After discussion it was agreed DC will invite the Director of Education to the LGF meeting to be held on or near 24 May 2022 to discuss this issue. Once it is confirmed if he can attend an appropriate venue will be sought. It is hoped to receive confirmation by the end of January 2022.

3.2 LLP Executive Board

Weekly Briefing notes continue to be circulated by DB

MM reiterated that he had completed the documentation to allow him to replace KD on the LLP Executive Board.

3.3 LLP All Learners

Members were asked to email members if they are unable to attend a meeting so another governor can attend in their stead.

3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More

Not Applicable.

Next meeting is to be held on 26.1.22. DB to attend.

3.5 LLP Maths Group

This group has been suspended.

3.6 Liverpool Safeguarding Partnership

Not Applicable.

3.7 LCC Priority 4

Not Applicable.

MM reported that a meeting is to be held soon and he will provide feedback at the next LGF meeting.

3.8 Other

Not Applicable

4.0 Other Items

4.1 NGA

PA is to organise log in details etc. for members going forward.

KD reported she had received a reply to her letter to NGA regarding her concerns re NLG's being paid by the government. The CEO agreed with KD that the 'softer' side of reviews was potentially lost when the reviewers were paid.

4.2 Other

Not Applicable.

The meeting concluded at 11:15.

Summary of Actions	
Mossport School to be approached re LGF meetings on 24.5.22 or 12.7.22	DO
John Thornhill to be contacted re continued service on LGF	DB
Director of Education to be invited to LGF meeting to be held on 24.5.22	DC

Next meeting:

The next committee meeting will be at St Mary's Millennium Centre, Meadow Lane, L12 5EA on Tuesday 8 March, 10:00 – 12:00. Guest speaker: Brendan Purcell, LA Energy Manager.

Addendum

After the meeting CB shared that next year there is to be an additional grant which could result in additional funding of £20,000 to £50,000 for a primary school and £125,000 to £200,000 for a secondary school.